

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18, 2009

St. George, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Denny Drake, Chair
Mayor Dan McGuire, Vice-Chair
Carolyn White
Commissioner Maloy Dodds
Mayor Lowell Mecham
Commissioner Lois Bulloch
Alan Adams
Mayor Kim Lawson
Commissioner Douglas Heaton
Wendy Allan
Brian Cottam for Wes Curtis
Frank Lojko

REPRESENTING

Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Washington County Mayor Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Iron County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Kane County Schools Representative
Southern Utah University
Dixie State College of Utah

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marreen Casper
Mike Empey
Steve Quinn
Lloyd Pendleton
Mayor Mary Reep
Ken Sizemore
Sherri Dial
Diane Lamoreaux

Senator Hatch's Office
Congressman Matheson's Office
Hafen, Buckner, Everett & Graff
State Div. of Housing & Community Development
Town of Apple Valley
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Chad Johnson, Excused
LuAnne Forrest, Excused
Mayor Leonard Foster
Gladys LeFevre, Excused
Mayor Connie Robinson, Excused

Beaver County Commissioner Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Iron County Mayor Representative

Commissioner Denny Drake, Chair, welcomed those in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Commissioner Chad Johnson, Beaver County Commissioner Representative; Ms. Gladys LeFevre, Garfield County Schools Representative; Mayor Connie Robinson, Iron County Mayor Representative and Ms. LuAnne Forrest, Washington County Schools Representative.

I. MINUTES OCTOBER 14, 2009 - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Chairman Drake noted that a quorum was present and presented minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting for Board consideration and approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2009 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ken Sizemore presented certificates of recognition to Mayor Leonard Foster, Beaver County Mayor Representative; Mayor Kim Lawson, Kane County Mayor Representative and longest standing mayor serving on the Steering Committee from 2002 to 2009; Mayor Dan McGuire, Washington County Mayor Representative, serving from 2003-2007 and again in 2009; and Mayor Lowell Mecham, Garfield County Mayor Representative, serving from 2006 to 2009. It was noted that four of the five mayor representatives will be leaving office in January. He thanked all of the mayors for their continued support, years of dedicated service to their constituents and service as a member of the Five County Steering Committee.

II. FY 2009 AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Steve Quinn, Hafen, Buckner, Everett and Graff, provided copies of the Five County audit report for the year ended June 30, 2009. Chad Michaeli of their firm facilitated work on the audit but was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Quinn referenced page one (1) containing the Independent Auditor's Report and read the third paragraph opinion that all financial positions for the year ended in conformity with accounting principles with no material inconsistencies. The management's discussion and analysis contains general audit information including financial highlights in regard to the AOG's assets/liabilities, unrestricted net assets, total assets, expenditures, and capital assets which include land, building equipment and vehicles. Commissioner Maloy Dodds mentioned that the building should be worth more in today's market. Mr. Quinn explained that land assets remain fixed and do not appreciate.

Basic financial statements begin on page 9 with the statement of net assets which is now required with full accrual accounting depicting the capital assets and debt of the Association. The AOG has no debt for capital assets and no restricted funds with the exception of deferred revenue. Page 10 contains a statement of activities outlining the type of revenue received during the fiscal year. Additional statements were reviewed as follows: **1)** The traditional Balance Sheet for government funds; **2)** Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Assets; **3)** Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance; **4)** Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance; **5)** Combined Balance Sheet of All Fiduciary Fund Types; **6)** Non-expendable Trust Funds which include the Revolving Loan Fund and Southern Utah Planning Authorities Council (SUPAC); **7)** Notes to the financial statements begin here and provide important information for each statement; **8)** Notes for deposits and investments indicate that bank balances were \$1.7 million dollars. Of this amount \$530,874 was covered by Federal Depository insurance and \$1.2 was uninsured and uncollateralized. This is something that management may want to take into consideration in the future to insure and collateralize these fund balances. Note 5 outlines accounts receivable. Commissioner Lois Bulloch asked if management has taken into consideration the large fund balances which are not covered by Federal Depository insurance to give consideration to move some of the balances to another bank. Mr. Sizemore explained that management has met with Wells Fargo to discuss options and feels comfortable with the current arrangement because of the great deals offered free of charge by the bank. Board members commented that there are ways to mix investments at other banks and this should be examined again to determine the feasibility; **9)** RLF notes reference 18 loans amounting to \$1 million which are considered credit risks; **10)** Deferred Revenue/Accrued Revenue represents the excess of federal and state monies received

over amounts expended on particular programs. Mr. Quinn also reviewed budget and actual comparisons, single audit compliance schedule of expenditures for federal awards received during the fiscal year, single audit compliance correspondence outlining that there were no deficiencies, a summary of auditor's results with no findings or questioned costs. He indicated that the AOG is very well run and complimented staff on their continued performance in terms fiscal management.

Mayor Kim Lawson commented that this firm as been conducting the audit for a long time period and it may be beneficial to the organization to consider a request for proposals for upcoming audits.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CAROLYN WHITE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, TO ACCEPT THE FY 2009 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Sizemore recognized Bob Rasmussen and Jo Seegmiller for their expertise and hard work in taking care of the little details which make this type of audit report a reality.

III. FY 2010 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux referenced page 11 of the packet containing the FY 2010 meeting schedule and noted that this is tentative pending confirmation of room availability. Many of the jurisdictions do not have their 2010 calendars available at this time for scheduling. Any necessary changes will be presented in January. It was noted that the January meeting has been shifted to the third Wednesday to accommodate the "What's Up Down South" economic summit. The November 2010 meeting is also scheduled for the third Wednesday to avoid conflict with the Utah Association of Counties meetings held annually in St. George.

IV. LOCAL HOMELESSNESS COORDINATING COUNCIL PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS BY 2014

Ms. Sherri Dial introduced Mayor Mary Reep, Apple Valley and Chair of the local Homelessness Coordinating Committee and Lloyd Pendleton, State Division of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Pendleton reported that the state of Utah has been working on their 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. As part of this effort, there were 12 local homeless coordinating committees created statewide which have been functioning and developing their 10-year plans which are based on the state of Utah 10-year plan. Each of these committees included an individual from the political arena to serve as chair. He reported that because Mayor Reep did not run for re-election, this group needs to consider appointment of an elected official to chair the Five County Homeless Coordinating Committee. This may be accomplished through action today or consideration at a later date. Through a number of efforts and a lot of work, chronic homelessness in the state of Utah has been reduced over the past two years. A potential housing project is under consideration at Purgatory which would work in conjunction with the re-entry program. Approximately \$10 million dollars of federal stimulus money has been awarded to the state of Utah for allocation through the local homeless coordinating committees for the next two years. These funds will be utilized to address some homeless issues, to prevent

homelessness and to get people rapidly re-housed. These funds have recently started to flow into the regions across the state. He explained that the state of Utah has brought on approximately 520 housing units for chronically homeless individuals, located primarily on the Wasatch Front. Chronically homeless individuals cost the community about \$20,000 annually in jail time, arrest and booking time, emergency room visits, and shelter visits. In areas where the housing projects have been completed, chronically homeless counts are down 35 percent. Given the economic situation, the overall homeless population for families has increased by about 50 percent. However, these families have been able to stay in homeless shelters because of the decreased demand for the chronically homeless. It has also been possible to move these families out of the shelters within 30-60 days into stable housing situations depicting a greatly improved flow through the system. The cost of maintaining chronically homeless individuals in housing is between \$10,000 to \$11,000 annually. Statistics have also shown that jail time, criminal activity, and alcoholism have decreased as these individuals are stabilized in housing. After one year, approximately 30% gain employment. The Department of Workforce Services has been working with clients to assist in finding and upgrading employment. Tax credits, donations from private foundations and the LDS Church are mainly used to construct these facilities, which in the end are debt free. Ongoing funds are provided by the state of Utah, federal government and Continuum of Care, local government and private donations to cover maintaining costs to house these individuals.

Commissioner Lois Bulloch asked about efforts and/or successes in the Five County area. Mr. Pendleton reported that a pilot project in Cedar City and St. George has assisted six chronically homeless individuals to obtain housing at scattered sites. This program has been successful in moving clients into Section 8 low-income housing units.

Commissioner Doug Heaton referenced the goal to end homelessness in the Five County region by 2014 and questioned if this is attainable. Mr. Pendleton reviewed the state's vision statement and indicated that efforts will continue with outreach to each chronically homeless individuals to offer safe, decent and affordable housing to achieve the 2014 goal.

Mayor Mary Reep explained that serving as chair for this committee has been a very rewarding experience. When she assumed the position, it was a very fragmented group composed of various agencies with their own resources. Services were not being shared and in many instances were duplicated. This resulted in many individuals getting lots of services and others getting no services. The local committee has pulled all of the services together, learned to work together and not duplicate services. Through this consolidation, the proper care is being provided through Workforce Services for a job, temporary housing while waiting for an apartment, etc. This is a very good committee which needs to continue. It is growing and gaining involvement of various churches to better utilize resources which are available. She encouraged the Board to adopt the homeless plan as well as select another elected official to serve in the capacity of chair. Lloyd Pendleton suggested that an update be provided every six months to outline progress and successes.

Ms. Diane Lamoreaux mentioned that the Steering Committee allocated \$174,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to the Iron County Care & Share for construction of a new homeless shelter. Additional funding will be required for this project, which will be undertaken in a phased approach. It was explained that the care and share will not be eligible to make application for additional CDBG funds this year because 50

percent of the previous year grant funds have not been expended. She asked if the state of Utah has any contingency plans to assist projects such as this that already have an injection of funds. Mr. Pendleton indicated that the Iron County Care & Share will be making application to the Continuum of Care, the LDS Church and Crusade for Homeless, various foundations as well as seeking private donations. It was pointed out that the organization needs assistance in developing applications in seeking the various sources of funding. Mr. Pendleton indicated that he has met with the new director and is assisting in this regard. He also reported that he is following the Color Country Community Housing, Inc. housing project at Purgatory which will be in developed in conjunction with the Veterans Administration. He pointed out that ongoing funding is a very important component of the housing projects. All of this planning is funneled through the local homeless coordinating committee.

A summary is included on pages 12-13 of the packet which outlines items unique to the Five County region and serves as the 10-year plan for this area. This is a living document which will continue to evolve. It includes the five county area commitments and key strategies recommended to end chronic homelessness and reduce overall homelessness in the Five County area by 2014.

Commissioner Doug Heaton expressed his philosophical opposition to government solutions to these types of problems, and indicated that when private individuals become involved in assisting others it is a much better option. He also expressed doubt that the federal government could solve homeless problems and worries about this becoming an entitlement.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MAYOR KIM LAWSON, TO ADOPT THE FIVE COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER DOUG HEATON ABSTAINING.

V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - CDBG POLICY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Diane Lamoreaux reported that the term of Mayor Connie Robinson on the CDBG Policy Committee expires the end of December 2009. State staff has requested that the Steering Committee consider re-appointment of Mayor Robinson or another representative from this region. Mayor Robinson has indicated that she would be willing to continue in this capacity for another two-year term. Mayor Kim Lawson has been serving as the alternate member for this particular committee. An alternate member also needs to be selected to represent the region as necessary. Board members indicated that selection of an alternate member should be considered after the February meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, TO NOMINATE MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON FOR RE-APPOINTMENT AS THE FIVE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CDBG POLICY COMMITTEE FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO-YEAR TERM. MOTION CARRIED.

VI. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE

Mr. Frank Ljoko, Dixie State College, reported that Dixie State College is experiencing tremendous growth rates in full-time equivalent (FTE) students. The increase from fall 2007 to 2008 was 12% and in upper division classes it was 35% FTE. From spring 2008 to 2009, enrollment increased 17% and 46% in upper division programs. Many students are continuing at Dixie State College and are enrolled in four-year programs. Summer enrollment rates marked enormous growth with a 50% increase and 67% in upper division. This fall marked the largest freshmen class at Dixie State College with 3,000 students and a 25% enrollment increase. Degrees are now available in music programs. Programs such as nursing are reaching great heights. New programs have been added which include respiratory therapy and physical therapy assistant. The Dixie Applied Technology College and Dixie State College received a \$1.2 million dollar grant to move forward in an operations management degree, an applied associates degree and a bachelors degree. They are hoping that the psychology BS and BA degrees will be approved by January 2010 and are pushing to have a Math/Math Education degree. The Computer Information Technology (CIT) division is being re-designed. A theater BS/BA program is proposed as well as a Theater Education program. A green construction management program has been placed on hold for the time being.

VII. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Brian Cottam reported that Wes Curtis is unable to attend and is at the state capitol working on education budget issues. He shared a press release covering the Gibson Science Center appropriation of \$1 million from the Energy and Water appropriations bill which has been signed. Demolition has already occurred and construction should start soon. A news release was also provided in regard to student benefit from thriving pre-health programs on the SUU campus. The Braithwaite Fine Arts Galley is featuring exhibits from Jim Jones, a renowned landscape painter. He encouraged members to visit the exhibit which is quite spectacular. This is an impressive collection that has been donated to SUU. Mr. Cottam reported that Jim Crisp is working with Regional Services participating on the Zion Canyon Corridor Council, the Zion National Park Centennial last year, as well as assisting Washington County with updating their General Plan, specifically the natural resources component. Regional Services is heavily involved in updating the Utah Prairie Dog Resource Implementation Plan for Iron County. It is hoped that an individual can be hired in the near future to assist with this efforts. A new professor at SUU in the College of Engineering is offering to provide local governments with architectural design services. Commissioner Maloy Dodds indicated that Garfield County is looking at a restoration project for the old courthouse and would like to become involved in this aspect with SUU.

VIII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that the Senator Hatch sent each of his offices copies of the health bill for constituents to review. Senator Reid has said it will be out on the floor before Thanksgiving. The Senator has 30 amendments that he will be proposing to the bill to try and fix various items such as funding for abortions. It was pointed out that the bill would not go into effect for five years. Senator Hatch was recently honored by the U.S. News Media Group and Harvard Center for Public Leadership, as one of 2009 America's Best Leaders for his work to pass meaningful bipartisan legislation without compromising his core principles. He also sent a letter to President Obama expressing his concerns about the BCS Bowl Championships because he feels it is a

violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust. Commissioner Lois Bulloch asked that Marreen pass on to Senator Hatch how much she enjoyed the Women's Conference.

Mr. Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office, reported that the health care bill has also been the dominating issue for the past few months. Their southern Utah office received 637 calls in three days with 15 in favor and the remainder against the bill. A lot of concern has been expressed in regard to other things that are not being accomplished. Congressman Matheson voted against health care legislation mainly because of cost overruns, lack of accountability, and it does not solve the issues. Cap and Trade legislation passed through the U.S. House of Representatives several months ago. The earliest this will be heard by the Senate would be March 2010. Criminal Justice and Commerce passed through the Senate this week which includes a \$1 million dollar grant for a computer crimes lab at Dixie State College. Commissioner Drake asked Mike to check on legislation which was passed by the House on Monday that would require anyone selling their home to have it inspected for water and electrical deficiencies. The inspections would have to be performed by an EPA inspector and homes would need to be brought up to compliance prior to sale. This legislation is very concerning to the Washington County Commission and would have a very negative impact on affordable housing.

IX. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Sizemore provided copies of correspondence addressed to the Tropic Town Council and a draft copy of correspondence to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality in regard to the management of smoke generated from fires allowed to burn on state and federal lands. The Steering Committee instructed staff to prepare a letter for the chair's signature. The third paragraph talks about the long duration burns filling adjacent valleys and communities with smoke for long periods of time, the potential health impacts, visitor impacts and management process. The letter is copied to Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell, Rob MacWhorter, Dixie National Forest; Todd Christensen, Bureau of Land Management and Dan Washington, Utah Division of Air Quality. He reported that an Enhanced Smoke Management Plan was adopted in 2000 and amended twice at the state level. This plan provides the process for identifying local jurisdictions about fire activities. The state is committed to working with federal land managers to determine if the plan needs to be amended to address long-term burning issues. Commissioner Maloy Dodds commented that the reason lightning strike fires are allowed to burn is so that the agencies can by-pass going through the stringent process.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR LOWELL MECHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOUG HEATON, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE ON THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO AMANDA SMITH, UTAH DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. MOTION CARRIED

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

None.

C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT BOARD APPLICATIONS

None.

D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE

None.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

None

IX. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Commissioner Drake, Chair, presented three A-95 reviews contained in the packet for Board consideration. All reviews have supportive staff recommendations.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MAYOR KIM LAWSON, TO APPROVE THE AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS AS PER STAFF RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at the Five County Association of Governments office in St. George beginning at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Sizemore noted that this meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday because of conflict with the Washington County Economic Summit.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.